Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) An end cone insulator dimensioned for being disposed between inner and outer end cone housings in an end cone region of a pollution control device, said end cone insulator comprising (a) ceramic fibers having a bulk shrinkage no greater than 10 percent using the Thermal Mechanical Analyzer test and (b) less than 50 weight percent inorganic colloidal material based on a weight of the ceramic fibers, wherein said end cone insulator is self-supporting, seamless, conical, flexible, non-intumescent and dimensioned for being disposed between inner and outer end cone housings in an end cone region of a pollution control device.

25. (Previously Presented) The end cone insulator of claim 24, further comprising an end cone housing of a pollution control device attached to an inner surface of the end cone insulator, attached to an outer surface of the end cone insulator, or a combination thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The end cone insulator of claim 24, wherein the ceramic fibers comprise Al_2O_3 in an amount of at least 20 weight percent and SiO_2 in an amount of at least 30 weight percent based on the weight of the ceramic fibers.

27. (Previously Presented) The end cone insulator of claim 26, wherein the ceramic fibers are crystalline, microcrystalline, or a combination thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The end cone insulator of claim 24, wherein said end cone insulator further comprising an organic binder.

29. (Previously Presented) The end cone insulator of claim 24, wherein said end cone insulator has a compressibility value no greater than 750 kN/m^2 when the mount density is about 0.4 g/ml.

30. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 24, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

31. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 25, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

32. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 26, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

33. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 27, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

34. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 28, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

35. (Previously Presented) A pollution control device having an end cone region comprising an end cone insulator, according to claim 29, sandwiched between inner and outer end cone housings.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of making an end cone insulator according to claim 24 ~~dimensioned for being disposed between inner and outer end cone housings in an end cone region of a pollution control device~~, said method comprising:

preparing an aqueous slurry comprising (a) ceramic fibers having a bulk shrinkage no greater than 10 percent using the Thermal Mechanical Analyzer test and (b) less than 50 weight percent inorganic colloidal material based on a weight of the ceramic fibers;

vacuum forming a conical-shaped preform from the aqueous slurry on a permeable forming die;

drying the preform to produce an end cone insulator, said end cone insulator being self-supporting, seamless, conical, flexible, non-intumescent and dimensioned for being disposed between inner and outer end cone housings in an end cone region of a pollution control device.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein said vacuum forming further comprises:

inserting the preform into or onto a shape-retaining device while the preform is supported by the permeable forming die;

transferring the preform to the shape-retaining device; and

removing the permeable forming die.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the shape-retaining device is an inner end cone housing or an outer end cone housing of an end cone region of a pollution control device.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the end cone insulator is attached to the end cone housing.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the ceramic fibers are microcrystalline, crystalline, or a combination thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the ceramic fibers comprise Al_2O_3 in an amount of at least 20 weight percent and SiO_2 in an amount of at least 30 weight percent based on the weight of the ceramic fibers.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the slurry further comprises an organic binder.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of making a pollution control device having an end cone region comprising inner and outer end cone housings, said method comprising:

disposing an end cone insulator between the inner and outer end cone housings of the pollution control device, where the end cone insulator is made according to the method of claim 36.